

FACULTY GUIDELINES FOR ADDRESSING DISRUPTIVE STUDENT BEHAVIOR

From time to time faculty have a student who is truly disruptive in the classroom, making it difficult or impossible for teaching to take place. The following guidelines will assist faculty members in dealing with these situations from a student discipline perspective. They are not intended to provide information on classroom management or to tell faculty members how to conduct their business.

1. Some disruptive students may have emotional or mental health disorders. Although such students may be considered disabled and are protected under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, they are expected to meet the same standards of conduct as any student. It is important that faculty establish the standards for his or her classroom and enforce them for all students, in conformance with the principles of academic freedom.
2. Some students' behavior may seem to be bizarre, but not threatening. The faculty member may want to discuss the student's behavior with professionals, such as a member of the counseling staff. The faculty member may also contact the Dean of Students who will consult with appropriate members of the professional staff and the faculty member in developing suggestions for working with the student. Care must be taken to protect the privacy of the student.
3. There may be situations occurring outside of the classroom where faculty feel threatened or very uncomfortable with a student's behavior. It is important that such behavior be reported to the School Dean or Dean of Students so that appropriate interventions can be made before the situation escalates.
4. Faculty should call upon the School Dean for help and advice in dealing with the disruptive classroom behavior. If the situation cannot be resolved by the faculty and the School Dean, the Dean of Students should be notified immediately. Faculty should be aware that notes of the dates, witnesses, and details of the incidents of disruption may be important in any future formal proceedings which may be necessary.
5. In extreme cases in which, in the judgment of the faculty member, a student's conduct threatens his/her own health and safety or the health and safety of others, or a student is so highly disruptive that instruction cannot take place, immediate removal from the classroom is appropriate. In such cases, the procedure to be followed is:
 - a. Faculty may direct a student who is being disruptive to leave the class. If the student refuses to leave after being requested to do so, the faculty member should summon University Police to remove the student (dial 8444), particularly if the behavior seems dangerous to themselves or others.
 - b. After the class, immediately inform the School Dean and file a Judicial Referral Form. (Report forms are available from the Dean of Students Office or off the web under Dean of Students, Judicial Affairs.) After discussion with the faculty member, the Dean of Students may move forward with judicial proceedings or recommend the School Dean meet with the student.
 - c. After consultation between the School Dean, Dean of Students and the faculty member, the student may be permitted to return to the class. As appropriate, the investigating officer may: 1) require the student to provide oral or written assurance that there will be no further disruptive behavior as a condition for the student to return to class; 2) initiate disciplinary sanctions which could include warning, community service, psychological assessment, suspension, or dismissal.
 - d. The investigating official will keep the faculty member and student informed of the status of the disciplinary proceedings, especially with regard to the student's attendance at further class sessions.
 - e. Removal of a student from class, either voluntarily or involuntarily, is a serious step and one not to be taken lightly. Any time a student is removed from class, either voluntarily or involuntarily, the faculty member should consult with the school dean and the Dean of Students, and file a Judicial Referral Form. Permanent removal from a class is to be determined by the faculty member and School Dean.
6. For further information regarding judicial proceedings, consult the SEU Student Handbook on line from SEU site directory.
7. Nothing in these guidelines is intended to infringe upon the academic freedom of students or teachers. Two fundamental principles must be observed: 1) students have the right to express opinions germane to the subject matter of a course; 2) faculty have the right to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the classroom time made available to students for the expression of their opinions. The responsibility for striking a balance between these principles rests with faculty.